



The South African Road to Socialism

13th Congress Political Programme of the SACP 2012 – 2017

SARS on Education, and on Political Education

Page 4:

Introduction

SARS 2012 provides a broad Marxist-Leninist framework for the revolutionary work of the SACP over the next five years. It serves as an ideological weapon and political education resource for SACP structures and for our broader alliance.

Page 108:

Transforming the Educational System

Education is a major terrain for the battle of ideas. It can be used to empower the working class and popular strata, but it can and typically is used to perpetuate the ideologies of oppressive ruling classes.

In the contemporary conjuncture, education has been a major purveyor of neo-liberal ideology, of a dog eats dog mentality, of the survival of the fittest, and of rank individualism. The SACP must wage a struggle for curriculum transformation aimed at empowering the working class and the majority of our people to play a meaningful role in the transformation of society.

In addressing skills development an opportunity also needs to be created for empowering our people beyond just the much needed technical and vocational skills. In waging the struggle for access to education it is important that that struggle is coupled with the struggle for the teaching of progressive ideas throughout our education system.

Pages 123-124:

Institutionalising Political Education and the theoretical development of our cadres

The SACP must institutionalise political education and the theoretical development of our cadres. Whilst cadre development is more than just political education and theoretical work, this task in itself is very important.

At least once every year, the Central Committee and provincial Executive Committees must hold or meet as a political school. Our district executive committees must meet as a political school twice a year, once in each half of the year. Our BECs must meet as such at least four times a year.

In addition to the above, once every year the Central Committee must convene one national political school targetted at the provincial leaderships of the SACP. Similarly each province and district must hold one provincial and district council per year as a dedicated political school targetted respectively at provincial, district and branch leadership.

Each district must ensure that each branch of the SACP must hold at least 4 political schools targetted at all Party members in a branch.

A dedicated commissariat drawn from leaders of the Party at all levels must be developed to ensure that the running of such political and theoretical education programmes of our Party. This must be one of the principal tasks of the national secretariat of the SACP.

['Drop the Concept "Essential Service"]

Extract:

The SACP however agrees that no one can differ with the need to make education a single and foremost important service in society so that in the manner in which resources are provided we make sure that our children are supported to receive the best form of education.

The SACP is further of the view that we should not just provide an education that produces readily made goods for absorption by the labour market but that our education, an education that must be essential, must be underpinned by the vision of People's Education for People's Power!

This vision requires that our schooling and post schooling education systems do not just produce skilled individuals but individuals who are able to interpret and make sense of their political, ideological and socio-economic conditions and thus be actors to radically alter those conditions.

The kind of education we must make essential must be a liberating one. This debate is a completely different debate from declaring teaching as an essential service and the two must be kept distinct.

Course: Education

23101, SARS on Education and on Political Education, 2012

649 words